(d) and (e) The production in agriculture sector is largely influenced by the performance of monsoons as about 38% of net area sown is irrigated and remaining 62% depends on rainfall.

Financial assistance for earthquake in Gujarat

3542. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance given to Gujarat Government by the Government of India, other State Governments, Voluntary Agencies and Foreign countries for relief and rehabilitation in earthquake affected areas;

(b) how much amount is sanctioned and released to citizens of Gujarat for repairs of residential, commercial and industrial units; and

(c) how much amount is sanctioned and released for new construction of houses, commercial establishment, industrial units, school-colleges and medical centres?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) In addition to release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund of Rs. 127.10 crore for 2001-02, assistance amounting to Rs. 1467.37 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund was released to the State. The assistance received from other organizations / agencies for different purposes, as intimated by the State Government, is indicated below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

(a) Education	5000.00
(b) Social Welfare	1000.00
(c) Rural Development (Indira Awas Yojana)	4900.00
(d) Energy	10962.00
(e) Water Supply	10000.00
(f) University Grants Commission	5000.00
(g) Asian Development Bank	35205.00
(h) World Bank	49078.00
(i) Indian Public abroad	22.80
(j) Foreign Institutions	55.71
TOTAL:	121223.51

(b) and (c) Distribution of assistance for relief and rehabilitation at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Government.

Revision in MSP-based Government procurement of grains

3543. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Economic Advisory Council has recommended drastic revision in the existing system of Minimum Support Price-based Government procurement of grains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Government reaction thereon;

(d) what are the other recommendations made by Prime Minister's EAC on agriculture sector;

(e) whether Government have examined the recommendations of the Council; and

(f) the action proposed by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council recommended that the present procurement policy should be drastically revised so as to limit Government purchases only to preventing a sharp fall in prices (i.e. to support prices) instead of Government buying all that is offered at pre-determined "fair" prices; and that the role of FCI should be limited to minimum buffer stocking (i.e. not more than 10 million tonnes). To feed its PDS, the Government should invite tenders from private grain companies / traders to deliver a specified amount of grain at a place and timing determined by the Government.

(c) The recommendations of the Council are under consideration of the Government. A Standing Committee of State Chief Ministers and Union Ministers has been constituted which, *inter-alia*, will consider re-structuring of the system of procurement of foodgrains.

(d) The Economic Advisory Council has made several recommendations for agriculture and allied activities which include market reforms, decontrol of essential commodities, reduction in credit margin, rationalization of taxes/ fees and raw agricultural commodities, dereservation of ground-nut/seed and mustard processing from the Small Scale Industries list, abolition of